

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

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R 181207Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6666

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: PLP MODERATES FORMALIZE MANIFESTO GROUP

REF: LONDON 16256

1. PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY (PLP) MODERATES DECEMBER 17 VOTED TO FORMALIZE THEIR RECENTLY FORMED ACTION GROUP (REFTEL) UNDER THE "MANIFESTO GROUP" TITLE. THIS ENTAILS UNDER EXISTING PLP CODE OF CONDUCT, REGISTRATION WITH CHIEF WHIP. WITH 76 PLP MODERATES PRESENT, THE GROUP ALSO ELECTED DICKSON MABON CHAIRMAN AND DESIGNATED THREE VICE-CHAIRMEN: TOM URWIN; MICHAEL STEWART (FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY); AND JAMES WELLBELOVED. ALSO ELECTED WERE A SECRETARY (JOHN HORAM) AND AN EIGHT-MEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE: JAMES TINN; GEORGE CUNNINGHAM; DAVID MARQUAND; PAT DUFFY; BEN FORD; FRED WILLEY; JOHN GOLDING; AND BRIAN WALDEN.

2. PURPOSES OF NEW GROUPING WERE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
-- "TO WORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICIES SET OUT IN THE LABOR MANIFESTO AND TO SUPPORT THE LABOR  
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GOVERNMENT IN OVERCOMING THE COUNTRY'S ACUTE ECONOMIC

DIFFICULTIES;

-- TO ACT AS A FORUM FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION  
DESIGNED TO RELATE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PHILOSOPHY TO  
THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT AGE;

-- TO ENDEAVOR TO ACHIEVE A TRULY DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST SOCIETY THROUGH OUR REPRESENTATIVE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM."

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CHAIRMAN MABON PUBLICLY DENIED REPORTS THAT THE MANIFESTO GROUP WAS DESIGNED TO COUNTER THE INFLUENCE OF THE LEFT-WING TRIBUNE GROUP, HIS STATEMENT IS SCARCELY CREDIBLE. INDEED, THE GUARDIAN REPORTS THAT ONE TRIBUNITE TRIED TO CRASH LAST NIGHT'S MEETING AND WAS POLITELY ASKED TO LEAVE. ONE INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE MANIFESTO GROUP LEADERSHIP IS THE PRO/ANTI-MARKET DIVISION. MABON, STEWART AND WELLBELOVED ARE STAUNCH PRO-MARKETEERS, WHILE URWIN IS ONE OF THE LEADING RIGHT-WING OPPONENTS OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS REPORTEDLY SPLIT 5/3 WITH THE PRO-MARKETEERS PREDOMINATING. THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE TRIBUNE GROUP'S UNIFORM ANTI-MARKET BIAS AND WOULD APPEAR TO LIMIT THE ROLE THE MANIFESTO GROUP CAN PLAY IN THE CONTINUING PLP DEBATE ON THE EC.

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